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Sierra Club, Connecticut Chapter
Comments on the 2010 Integrated Resource Plan
Jan. 25, 2010
Submitted by Martin Mador, Legislative Chair

The Sierra Club is the national's oldest and most respected grassroots environmental organization. These comments are submitted on behalf of the Connecticut Chapter's 8,000 members.

The 2010 proposed IRP is replete with recommendations furthering energy conservation, efficiency, move toward renewable sources, and minimization of greenhouse gas emissions, as well as an appropriate emphasis on the benefits of DSM.

We are concerned that the IRP emphasizes support for out-of-state renewable sources. We feel that the plan should more strongly recommend funding for in-state sources.

Combined Heat and Power holds considerable promise for energy efficiency. The Plan should contain enhanced recommendations for smaller CHP opportunities.

The plan envisions accelerated retirement of older, inefficient, fossil fuel generation plants. Sierra wholeheartedly agrees with this view, and recommends efforts to minimize both CO₂ and NO_x emissions.

Sierra recommends full funding for the "all cost-effective DSM" scenario.

Sierra endorses the recommendations for regional New England energy considerations and policies.

Sierra is strongly opposed to *any* consideration of nuclear power, in spite of the absence of greenhouse gas plant emissions. We feel nuclear cannot deliver power within a reasonable timeframe, carries too many financial risks, and poses enormous health risks both for the present and for generations to come.

The following list illustrates some of the reasons for Sierra's opposition to consideration of nuclear as a feasible power source:

- enormous costs of implementation
- extensive time from concept to approval to generation
- uncertainty of the approval process
- significant health consequences risk to people and the environment
- unresolved issues of spent material processing and permanent, secured, storage
- impossibility of safely securing a plant and the risk to local and national security
- siting issues in a densely populated region
- impossibility of evaluating financial risks to shareholders, ratepayers, and the government
- impact of cooling on the local environment